

MOUNTAINEER PARENTS



Winter 2014

West Virginia University's favorite bow-tie wearing president is going to stay a while.



E. Gordon Gee was named WVU's permanent president earlier this month—the third time he's been asked to lead the state's land-grant, flagship research University.

Gee, 70, first served as president from 1981-1985—hired when he was just 36. He returned in January 2014 for a term to replace the departing Jim Clements, and was asked by the WVU Board of Governors Monday to serve as the University's permanent 24th president—



pending a special meeting of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and its approval.

"Gordon Gee is absolutely, hands-down the very best person to be at the helm of West Virginia University at this important time and place in our history," said BOG Chair James W. Dailey II. "I know we recruited him to serve until a permanent leader was in place and said the interim president would not be a candidate for the permanent presidency, but the search committee and the Board had a change of heart.

Gee said in a message to WVU friends and family that he "will work to make our University and our state stronger than ever." You can read the rest of his message at <http://go.wvu.edu/1dYq0Aq>.

Take a look at why Gee is happy to be back in Morgantown in this David Letterman-style top 10 list: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=EMwqrF7esqc>.

For more information on Gee, visit <http://presidentgee.wvu.edu/>. 

Your student can have a great outcome

Like you, WVU wants your student to have a fantastic future.

To ensure a dream job and successful career, encourage your student to take advantage of the WVU Career Services Center.

The Center helps students discover the right major, find an internship, learn how to write a killer resume, and know what (and what not to) to say and do during a job interview.

Your student should sign up for MountaineerTrak, WVU's Web-based recruiting management system that allows her to upload multiple resumes, view jobs, sign up for on-campus interviews, and register for career fairs.

Over 4,000 career possibilities were shared last year including openings for business analyst, pharmacist, forensic analyst, rehab tech, graphic designer, psychologist, multimedia journalist, geophysicist, editor, physical therapist, forester, microbiologist, gymnastics coach, meteorologist, registered nurse, sports analyst, child protective services worker, and neuroimaging research assistant.

The Career Services Center also hosts two University-wide campus job fairs, and the spring 2014 fair has been extended to two days (March 19 and 20, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Mountainlair Ballrooms).

Various career-specific job fairs are held on campus, focusing on engineering and computer science; health sciences; pharmacy; natural resources; agriculture; safety management; professional education; consulting and information systems; insurance and financial services; hospitality and tourism; and retail

(continued on page 4)

PARENTS

Club



Dear Mountaineer Parents Club families,

Is winter over yet? I sure hope so! I'm sure that your children have shared with you that this has been an unusually difficult winter here in Morgantown.

With all the winter blah hopefully behind us, we hope that your students are taking advantage of all the opportunities available. There is never a night on campus that our students can't find a unique event or program happening. You can find a list of these activities on the WVU calendar.

Here are a few of the ongoing opportunities for your students:

- **Festival of Ideas**—This lecture series spans the academic year and brings a diverse group of newsmakers, public figures, and thought leaders—along with WVU's own academic superstars – to campus to engage our community in timely, important issues.
- **WVUp All Night**—This award-winning, late-night program offers alternative programming during weekends. WVUp All Night takes place each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening during the fall and spring semesters and offers free movies, food, games, and activities.
- **Creative Arts Center**—The Creative Arts Center is the home of the College of Creative Arts. Students can check out hundreds of exhibits, concerts, and plays performed by nationally touring groups and fellow students and professors. A new art gallery also is under construction.
- **Academic Resource Centers**—Students can receive walk-in tutoring for physics, statistics, general engineering, Chinese, and more subjects upon request.
- **WELLWVU**—This program is designed to help students maintain healthy lifestyles. It is often easy for students to forget to take care of themselves without their parents around. WELLWVU offers a variety of programs.
- **Student Organizations Services**—Has your student joined a student organization? What do they like to do outside of the classroom? We encourage students to take an active role on campus, and they can through WVU's 400 student organizations.

We offer so many opportunities, I don't have space to list them all. Did I mention that everything listed above is FREE for WVU students?

Thanks for all that you do to support our students and West Virginia University!

Sabrina M. Cave
Sabrina M. Cave, Executive Director

PS: I forgot to mention volunteer opportunities through the Center for Service and Learning and study abroad through the Office of International Programs. The list goes on!

Winter 2014

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a free publication for Mountaineer Parents Club members. It is a joint project of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations, and Mountaineer Parents Club. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Send mail to: Editor, Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter, PO Box 6240, Morgantown, WV 26506 or parentsclub@mail.wvu.edu.

Funding for this newsletter was provided in part by the Susan B. Hardesty Parents Club Endowment. The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing, and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities. West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution. Designed by University Relations-Design.

Three Great Places Your Student Can Call Home

It seems that students have no sooner moved into a residence hall before they are looking for a place to live next year. And this year, the choices are better than ever.

Did you know that West Virginia University owns/operates a few on-campus apartment complexes? Upperclassmen can have all of the benefits of residence hall, but none of the restrictions. Our mission is to create and maintain a living, as well as learning, environment that is supportive of and responsive to our students. Our primary goal is to provide well-maintained, secure, affordable housing with a dedicated staff.

So if your student is looking to stay close to campus, check out these options:


University Place: Opening fall 2014, this is a 950-bed, WVU Housing-managed community featuring modern, independent living for students on the edge of campus in Sunnyside. Less than three blocks from the Downtown campus, University Place will provide

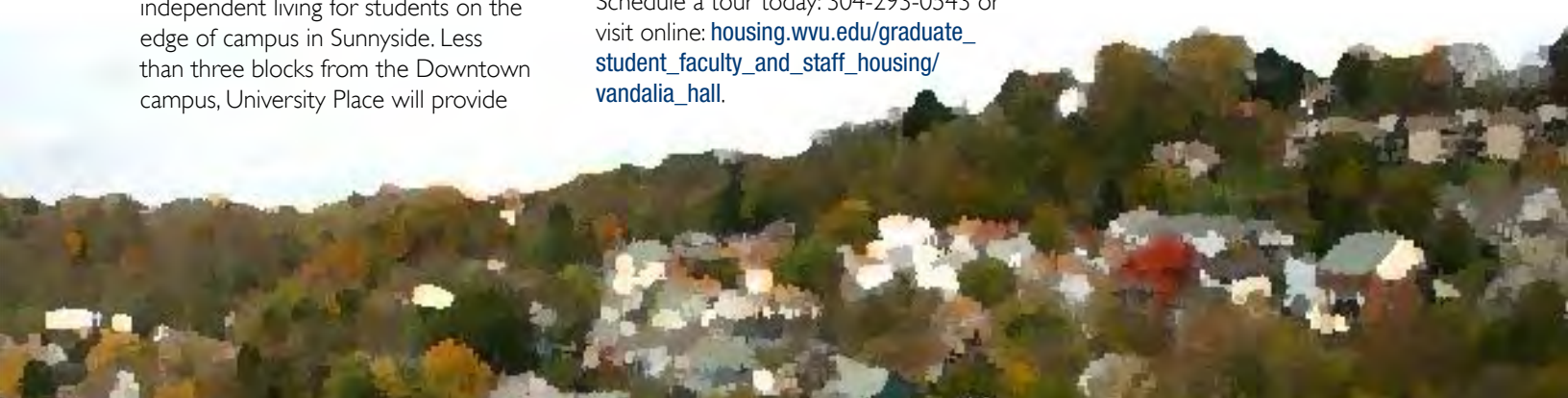
your student everything he or she needs to be successful and enjoy the college experience at a reasonable, all-inclusive rate. Leasing has already begun for 2014, so reserve your student's spot today and secure the newest and best in student housing! For more info call 304-293-2253 or visit uplace.wvu.edu/.

Vandalia Apartments: Why take the bus when you can walk to campus? Vandalia Apartments, located adjacent to the College of Business and Economics and the Life Sciences Building, offers fully furnished, upscale apartments with private bedrooms and bathrooms. Open to undergraduate (with the exception of first-time freshmen), graduate, and nontraditional students, one and two-bedroom units are offered, with roommate matching available. It offers fully adjustable heating/cooling, modern furnishings, parking, and full kitchens. Schedule a tour today: 304-293-0543 or visit online: housing.wvu.edu/graduate_student_faculty_and_staff_housing/vandalia_hall.

College Park: Opening fall 2014, College Park is available to WVU students and employees and is the perfect place for families. This mixed-use housing complex will feature 1-4 bedroom units, all with individual bathrooms and a full kitchen and living area. Along with that will be on-site parking, laundry facilities, recreation and fitness space, a community center, and an outdoor space for grilling. And it's close to campus and public schools. Call 304-293-5840 or visit online: collegepark.wvu.edu/.

So as you and your student make housing plans for the future, you might just find that one of these options is the perfect place to live.

For more information, see housing.wvu.edu/graduate_student_faculty_and_staff_housing. 



Academic Advising By Kaite Gallagher

The theme: planning ahead.



I previously served as an academic advisor. I worked closely with my students, guiding them through the processes and academic area(s). With advising meetings under way and the subsequent

summer/fall online registration period just around the corner (registrar.wvu.edu/pre_reg_dates), here are some reminders. The theme: planning ahead.

First, students should take control of their own destiny. Though it sounds lofty, this is actually quite simple—and most useful. I used to make a copy for my students of their advising checklist so they could keep track what classes they had taken, their progress in each, and what they still needed. Now students can monitor this progress online via their

DegreeWorks account (registrar.wvu.edu/dw). With this tool, as well as info in the Catalog (catalog.wvu.edu/), students have an outline of requirements for each major, can explore what classes are prerequisites for others, know if they need a certain grade in a certain class for their major, and keep on track for graduation. By using these tools in advance, students' meetings with their advisors are productive.

Second, it is important to note that

(continued on page 4)

WVU alumnus gives back to her alma mater

Rhonda Radcliff is passionate about helping students while paying tribute to her family's legacy.

Since graduating from WVU in 1989, Radcliff, of Mountain View, Ca., has created five endowed scholarships and two fellowships through her employer's gift matching program. All provide assistance to students in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, and are named after members of her family.

Radcliff earned her degree in chemical engineering and immediately went to work for ExxonMobil, where she continues her employment today.

She was excited to learn about ExxonMobil's Educational Matching Gift Program.

"It was created to encourage contributions to higher education by ExxonMobil employees, retirees and surviving spouses. Each eligible donor may give up to \$7,500 per year and be matched by the ExxonMobil Foundation. The matching ratio is \$3 for every \$1 contributed by the donor," she said.

Radcliff hopes the seven scholarships and fellowships

she has created will make it easier for students to focus on their studies rather than worrying about finances.

"As a student, concentrating on studies is hard enough," said Radcliff. "I hope these scholarships can help students who are pursuing engineering degrees to solve problems, help society, have a successful career and give back to their university too."

"I hope these scholarships can help students who are pursuing engineering degrees to solve problems, help society, have a successful career and give back to their university too."

Radcliff has named the endowments after family members to honor her lineage, including her parents, grandmother, aunt,

uncle, sister, husband and in-laws, all whom have affected her life in a significant way.

Radcliff's most recent gift of \$25,000 created an endowed scholarship fund at the Statler College in the name of her great uncle and aunt, Harold and Helen Shamberger of Morgantown.

The endowments were made in conjunction with A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University. The \$750-million comprehensive campaign being conducted by the WVU Foundation on behalf of the University runs through December 2015. 💙

Great Outcomes *(continued from page 1)*

and small business.

Over 600 companies recruited at WVU last year—Amazon, Oracle, IBM, the FBI, Peace Corps, US Steel, General Electric, Deloitte, the Naval Research Laboratory, Prudential, Siemens, ICentra Health, Inc., Ernst & Young LLP,

Chevron, the US Department of State, AT&T Mobility, Coca-Cola, KPMG, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Milliken, Biotronic NeuroNetwork, and hundreds more.

Why do firms hire WVU grads? According to Insight Global, "We hire

WVU graduates because they are some of the most outgoing and sharpest candidates in the job market."

Get your student started on his or her great future—have them visit careerservices.wvu.edu/. 💙

Advising *(continued from page 3)*

advising is an ongoing process. Students can continue to modify their schedules through the first week of each semester. That week is referred to as the add/drop period. So if your student is debating switching around a class or even switching their major—don't fret. Although there are busy times in most advising offices (typically just prior to registration dates and during new student orientation), scheduling an appointment during a downtime can be beneficial for students who have questions.

Third, many other resources exist to help students. Our Career Services Center (careerservices.wvu.edu/students)

offers career planning classes and one-on-one counseling and testing to help students determine a proper career choice.

Finally, students should always have a Plan B. They should always have a backup major/class in mind. Life happens. If students find that their major is not for them or they are having difficulty in the required courses, they can flounder. Some majors are quite competitive and if they are not admitted, students with several semesters invested can feel defeated or lost.

Already having a Plan B major that the student has explored and become familiar

with can make this a much less anxiety ridden process. Students might have the perfect schedule planned out, but when registering having a backup class or two picked out in advance is extremely helpful.

Planning ahead, revisiting and reevaluating their progress, using the resource available, and having a backup plan in place for these potential roadblocks are good habits to adopt. The more involved and aware students are of the process and progress they must make, the more successful and productive their time in college will be. 💙

WVU's State of Minds campaign exceeds \$700 million, 95 percent of the goal *By Bill Nevin*

WVU is well on its way to surpassing its \$750 million goal in A State of Minds: The Campaign for West Virginia's University.

Contributions to the campaign totaled \$716 million through December 31, 2013, or 95 percent of the \$750 million goal. The campaign, which began in July 2007 and was publically launched in June 2012, runs through December 2015.

"Going over \$700 million in donations with two years remaining in the campaign demonstrates the tremendous loyalty and passion our donors have for WVU," said WVU Foundation President and CEO Cindi Roth. "Our alumni and friends, corporate and foundation partners are stepping up, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity.

"It's important that we continue this momentum because the University's needs, in order to achieve its long-term strategic plan, far exceed our \$750 million goal."

Donations to the campaign include endowed scholarships and fellowships for students, professorships and faculty chairs, financial support for new learning facilities, and enhancements for academic and athletic programs.


"This campaign is critical to our ability to create opportunities for our students, our state and our world," said WVU President E. Gordon Gee. "Reaching this milestone demonstrates how optimistic and committed our alumni and friends are to the important land-grant mission of West Virginia University, and we are grateful for their trust and their investments in our work. We will be a greater university because of their support."

A State of Minds is the largest private fund-raising campaign in WVU's history. The \$750 million goal is three times larger than the previous Building Greatness campaign from 1998-2003.

Fund-raising focuses on six University-wide campaign priority areas that align with the University's 2020 Strategic Plan for the Future:

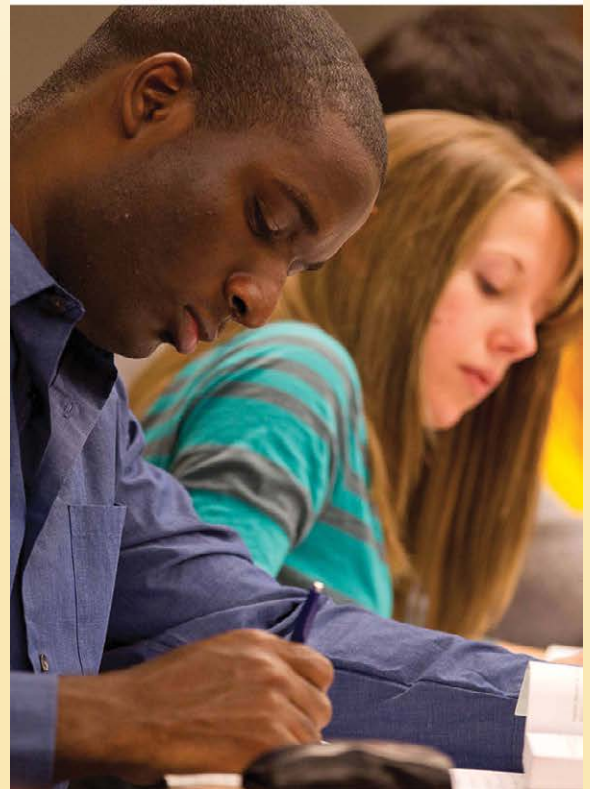
- Enhance the undergraduate student experience and global education
- Advance the research initiative of the University
- Enable WVU to improve West Virginia's health, economy and quality of life
- Foster faculty excellence
- Enhance WVU through professional and graduate education
- Support healthcare through research, education and patient care

Chairman of Putnam Investments and 1974 alumnus Robert Reynolds and Cadrillion Capital President Verl Purdy, a 1964 WVU graduate, are the national campaign co-chairmen.

A key component of this comprehensive campaign for WVU is hundreds of volunteers. Along with a 23-member national volunteer committee, the campaign also has West Virginia and regional volunteer chairs. Each college and school has its own campaign committee with its chair also serving on the national committee. 



**INVESTING IN THE VALUES,
AMBITION, INTELLECT, AND
MINDSET THAT DEFINE WVU**



Visit www.astateofminds.com for information on how you can help support the campaign.

Jasmine Koech Taking her past and making it her future

By Anastasia Burpee

Burlington, W.Va., native Jasmine Koech grew up in a small town where her heritage made her a minority. At WVU, she was given the resources to explore her ancestry in a way she never would have imagined.

Koech's mother moved to Miami at a very young age from Mexico City. While interning at a local hospital, she met her future husband, who worked repairing medical equipment. From there they moved across the eastern United States, finally settling in Burlington, married and had two children.

The eastern panhandle of West Virginia is where Koech grew up. She will admit that being a minority in a state that has limited diversity wasn't easy and, while the Mountain State will always be her home, she is looking forward to exploring the rest of the world.

"Dealing with all the things that come with standing out at an age where it is important to feel like you are included made me realize that I wasn't meant to stay here forever," she says.

At WVU, she found that opportunity, thanks in part to generous donors.

Koech began her undergraduate studies majoring in psychology, and after taking *Cultures of Mexico* with Pablo Garcia, it wasn't long before she decided to double major, adding Latin American Studies to her curriculum.

With the help of the McNair Scholars Program, Koech found her niche. The program provides grants and resources to first-generation and underrepresented students who demonstrate strong academic potential and fosters a research-heavy environment to accelerate undergraduate students toward master's and doctoral programs. Since its inception in 1999, this program has helped over 190 students like Koech excel.

This opportunity allowed her to not only explore the world of research that is often closed to undergraduates, but combine her two fields of study.

Koech, who will graduate this spring, began her research experience in the social psychology lab with Natalie Shook, who quickly became a mentor and friend. Because of her experience there, Koech was accepted into the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) held in Evanston, Ill., where she spent a summer conducting research at Northwestern University.

The Eberly Enrichment Program allowed Koech to participate in a study abroad trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, where she conducted field work to support her undergraduate research.

The trip abroad gave Koech a better understanding of traditional Mexican culture and the opportunity to build on her



major. Being in Mexico and immersed in the culture gave her a better understanding of not only the Hispanic population, but the world in general.

Koech has shaped her research interests to focus on social psychology within the Latino population.

"Their presence in the United States is growing, and I think it is time for the research in this field to reflect that growth," explains Koech. "I want to

research how Latinos fit into contemporary social psychological theories."

Her accomplishments would not have been possible without her scholarships and grants, and the private donors who fund them. Not only did these provide her with a mentor and two years of research experience, it gave her something else.

"They put a faith in me that I was not aware existed. Seeking out your heritage can be a bumpy road," she explains, "but I am managing to find a lot of comfort in knowing that I am getting closer to Latin America with my research." 🇵🇷

"They put a faith in me."



Parents from the Central Maryland Mountaineer Parents Club attended the WVU vs Texas Tech football game in Morgantown. For some, it was their first-ever Mountaineer game!

Did you know?

Starting this month students can purchase their class ring. Students receiving a ring will be invited to participate in a **Ring Day Ceremony** scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, at the Erickson Alumni Center. This ceremony allows your student to share this proud moment with family and friends. For more information on ordering a ring, visit classring.wvu.edu/order.

On Monday, January 20, the **Center for Black Culture and Research** celebrated its 25th anniversary. Since 1987, the CBC&R has been providing critical support to WVU students, particularly African American students and students of color with issues concerning recruitment and retention. For more information visit cbc.wvu.edu/programs.



On November 10, the West Virginia University women's soccer team won its first **Big 12 Soccer Championship** title, defeating Oklahoma State 1-0 at Swope Soccer Village. The title is the first for any WVU team at a Big 12 Conference championship. Senior Frances Silva, a 2013 M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist, and freshman Kadeisha Buchanan were named to the 2013 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Continental Tire All-America Second Team, while 18-year coach Nikki Izzo-Brown was named the NSCAA Central Region Coach of the Year.

Construction of the new **College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences (CPASS), Student Health and Wellness** facility is well under way and scheduled to be complete in August. The new building will border the Evansdale Recreation Fields and will be located adjacent to the Student Recreation Center, creating a wellness precinct on the Evansdale campus. The building will be physically connected to the new CPASS building at the ground floor level. For more information and photos, visit construction.wvu.edu/.

West Virginia University held a groundbreaking ceremony in October for a new **Mountaineer baseball stadium** at University Towne Centre. The new facility is an upgrade to the 40-year-old, 1,500 seat Hawley Field where the Mountaineers currently play. It will seat approximately 7,000 baseball fans. Visit viewer.zmags.com/publication/8d2684ea#/8d2684ea/1 for a virtual Mountaineer baseball experience.

A senior executive with more than 25 years of experience in fund-raising, finance and program development is the new president and CEO of the WVU Foundation. Cindi Roth comes to Morgantown from the University of Pittsburgh where she served as associate vice chancellor of institutional advancement.



Cindi Roth

Fans of the **WVU Marching Band** once again went above and beyond in support of the Pride of West Virginia. The 2013 Pride Travel Fund received a record \$103,232 from 941 donors, breaking 2012's record of \$103,083 from 892 donors. Thank you donors!

2014 Calendar of Events

- March 16, 2014 — Residence Hall reopen at Noon (Sunday)
- April 11 - 13, 2014 — Spring Family Weekend
- April 13, 2014 — Spring Ring Day Ceremony

The **Office of Student Employment** helps WVU students find **part-time and seasonal employment** to help offset costs of their college education. Opportunities include on-campus jobs and internships, graduate assistantships, and off-campus employment. For more information, students, parents, and employers can call 304-293-9270 or studentjobs@mail.wvu.edu.

The Mountaineer Parents Club newsletter is a joint effort of WVU Foundation, Enrollment Services, University Relations, and Mountaineer Parents Club.

WVU to reaffirm its goals, mission

With four months to go, West Virginia University is ready to reaffirm its standing as a high-quality educational institution. For West Virginia's flagship, land-grant University, it's time for reaccreditation and the theme is "Reaffirm."

The Higher Learning Commission, an agency that oversees accreditation of degree-granting colleges and universities, will conduct a comprehensive site visit at WVU from April 7-9, 2014. WVU's last accreditation was in 2003-04.

WVU officials have been stressing the importance of accreditation across the WVU system.

"This is an opportunity to reaffirm not only our top-notch education and our pathways for innovation, research and opportunities, but one to reaffirm our promise to students and parents that the education West Virginia University offers is an exceptional value that we know it to be," said President E. Gordon Gee.

Provost Michele Wheatly also noted that

institutional accreditation is an overarching "license to operate" that universities receiving federal funds are required to have, and program-specific accreditation is only valid if the institution is regionally accredited.

"I have always viewed accreditation as an opportunity to pause, document the recent past and use evidence to improve all aspects of the university," she said. "The entire campus community should be anticipating the site visit with enthusiasm and pride."

The reaccreditation process will involve all colleges and schools, major units and divisional campuses across the WVU system. About eight weeks before the site visit, the Commission will begin accepting comments from the University community and the public in writing or via the Commission's website. WVU will post notices online and in traditional and social media outlets when the public comment period begins and ends.

The self-study process began in

July 2011, when WVU's Higher Learning Commission Planning Team was established to oversee and coordinate the study.

More than 50 University faculty, staff and administrators are aiding in the process.

The study will be sent to the Higher Learning Commission no later than eight weeks prior to the April 2014 site visit.

The Higher Learning Commission breaks down the criteria for accreditation into five qualities:

- The institution's mission.
- Ethical and responsible conduct.
- The quality of teaching and learning.
- Evaluation and improvement of educational programs and support services.
- Resources, planning and institutional effectiveness.

See more at: wvutoday.wvu.edu/n/2014/01/14/president-gee-provost-wheatly-urge-wvu-community-to-get-involved-in-accreditation-process.

[edu/n/2014/01/14/president-gee-provost-wheatly-urge-wvu-community-to-get-involved-in-accreditation-process](http://wvutoday.wvu.edu/n/2014/01/14/president-gee-provost-wheatly-urge-wvu-community-to-get-involved-in-accreditation-process). 